Societal Norms and Gender Roles in S L Bhyrappa's Select Novels

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Introduction

Indian writing in English has achieved the position of an independent literature like the literature of other nations; courtesy to the efforts of some of the creative minds in our country. Indian English is nurtured by two cultures- Western literacy tradition as well as the literacy tradition of India. This twofold aspect of Indian English is a source of inspiration and challenge to the creativity of Indian writers. Among various forms of Indian writing in English, it is well known that fiction and poetry have drawn worldwide attention. Colonisation has brought new knowledge, language and culture with them. Before it the Indian literature was only written in Sanskrit and Pali. With the invasion of Muslims on India Persian language stepped in to the literary field of India. Persian language gave birth to other languages like Urdu and Hindi and its influence is seen on many Indian languages.

There are two different areas in the Indian writings in English first the Britishers who lived in India started writing in English. Many writers like Jim Corbet, Rudyard Kipling, John Masters, E M Forster, Tailor, Paul Scott, W M Thackery etc. Secondly, Indians writing in English like Tagore, Sarojini Naidu, R K Narayan, Raja Rao, Kamala Das etc.

There is another group in Indian literature i.e. translation; further in translation there are two groups first the foreigners translating Indian texts written in vernacular languages to English , Persian and other languages. Secondly, translation by Indians from Indian languages like Bengali,

Malayalam, Marathi, Kannada Tamil, Telugu etc to other foreign languages; our main concern of study lies here on the translation. After independence beginning with Rabindranath Tagore who first started writing in Bengali and translated himself those books to English later resorted to write in English was the first Indian to receive Noble Laureate. Gujarati writers like M K Gandhi; Kannada writers like U R Ananthamurthy, Girish Karnad, S L Bhyrappa, Karant etc; and Malayalam writers like Kamala Das; Marathi writers like Sane Guruji, Vijay Tendulkar etc. contributed a lot to the literary world of Indian English.

S L Bhyrappa as a Writer:

S L Bhyrappa was born on 26 July 1934 in Santeshivara, Hasan District of Karnataka India. He was born in a poor Brahmin family. He has seen poverty and death from his young age. He lost his mother and brother early in childhood by plague. When he was fifteen he took his younger brothers dead body on his shoulder to cremate. Out of fourteen children's born to his parents only two left alive. So this made a drastic effect on the mind of the writer. His father who was a irresponsible person wanted him to support in running family by leaving education. This effect of death and social behavior are seen in most of his novels. He completed his education in Hasan and Mysore districts; initially he worked in different capacities as a gatekeeper in a theater, porter in Bombay Station, later after completion of his master's degree he joined as a philosophy lecturer in Hubli college and Sardar Patel University Gujarat.

S. L Bhyrappa originally a Kannada writer; most of his novels written in kannada are translated to English and many Indian languages. He wrote nearly 24 novels; in which he reflect different themes of present transitional India i.e.

question of birth and death, personal life, cultural diaspora and its problems, historic themes, mythological themes, and sanatana dharma which received criticism from many writes.

Indian society is a complex one with complex social orders with multitude of ethnic, linguistic, religious and caste divisions. In India nearly 70% of the people live in the villages with lack of infrastructure and other facilities. Illiteracy and diversified languages, complex caste system, male dominant society is the chief factors of Indian society. Man is considered as the karta darta of the family. Economic social and religiously man is everything in the society.

Family is very important in Indian society. The household members of the family are interwoven. The relationship between family members which has some sanctity in its own is now changing with the industrialisation. S L Bhyrappa constructs characters in the changing scenario of the modern world.

Marriage which is considered as one important religious practice in the Indian society changes with the industrialisation. Which is clearly shown in the novels of Bhyrappa. Inter marriage relationship which is prohibited in Indian society is changing in the modern scenario. Man -women relationship which was sanctity was broken. Woman who has to live with her husband for seven lives after marrying a husband was broken. The Sati Savitri stories which are said by many religious men, and every men expecting his wife to be Savitri, but in the novels of Bhyrappa it was broken and most of the women act rationally.

Modern society which is influence by many diverse religions has lost its sanctity. Many religious practices which are rigidly followed have lost their rigidity. Caste system which is a complex system in Indian society; where a caste born man cannot change to other caste and cannot eat or drink from other caste.

Where as in the novels of Bhyrappa Inter caste marriages take place but fail to maintain it. In one of the novels a high caste born woman eating in the lower caste family secretly etc. are shown by the author.

Economic independency, previously women were considered as the house hold asset they were confined to four wall cocking rearing begotten children's for their husbands was the practice followed in India. But with industrialisation women tend to become economically independent which we clearly find in the writings of S L Bhyrappa.

A Brief Survey of his Major Novels

*Dharmarshree (*1961) the novel depicts present social and religious transition. The protagonist who converts to Christianity to marry a girl whom he loved explores inner search on true love and religion.

Doora Saridaru (1962) it portrays two sets of young couple in their college campus with their psychological and social conflict that prevent them from marrying.

Vamshavrriksha(1965) which was translated to English and many other Indian languages; speaks about the quest foe lineage or vamshavriksha.

Gruhabhanga(1970) translated to English and other Indian languages. The novel depicts about the struggle of a women against her idiotic husband, vicious mother-in-law, superstitious neighbours and poverty.

Parva (1979 it is a non-mythological retelling of the Mahabharata in which many characters like Kunti, Droupadi etc are shown narrating stories.

Sartha (1998) which means Carvan; though the carvan the novel explores 8th century Indian political, economical, artistic and spiritual life.

Sakshi(1986) The protagonist hangs himself by the guilt of telling false witness in a murder trial was sent back to earth in spiritual form with power to read the mind and feelings of the people and observes their characters as they confront him.

Aavarana (2007) means enveloping or covering; it deals with historical characters like Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and questions about religion, liberalism and identity.

Mandra (2001) awarded Saraswati samman for the year 2010 the book has story surrounded by musician and dancers.

Daatu (1972) depicts complex caste system in Indian society and has been translated to 14 languages and received Kendra Sahitya Academy award for 1975.

Tantu (1993) tantu means Cord or Link; means relations or links between human emotions. It is translated to English and other languages. It has a philosophical background and throws light on Indian education, moral political and social system.

Hypothesis:

S L Bhyrappa who wrote originally in kannada. He has selected prose writing as a means to reflect his life experience especially inter woven in the form of characters. According to him life and writing are very approximate to each other. He studies philosophy to quest the reality of the life in the form of writing novels. He tried to reflect life, death, rebirth, sin, virtue, love, sex, religion etc in his novels. He deals with communal tensions, sexual issues, hyporcritic urban life,

politics, Sanatana Religion, role of Women, mental trauma etc. he turns out more philosophical and psychological novelist than mete story teller. Researcher would like to study different themes, man women relations in changing social religious and economic and psychological dimensions.

Objectives of the Study:

1. The study aims at analyzing of societal norms and gender roles as depicted in the selected novels.
2. Social Norms-Social norms are rules that a group uses for appropriate and inappropriate values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviours.

   Gender role – A gender role is a set of societal norms dictating the types of behaviours which are generally considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their sex.
3. Lineage or vamsha is over shadowed in one or the other novels of the Bhyrappa.
4. Male female factor in perspective with the social and religious view in the novel is discussed
5. Secondly, how death overshadows his novels and how death has become a substance to a creative mind of writer is brought

Probable date of Completion

This research project is proposed to be completed within the time limit as stipulated by the university.

Research Methodology:

The research methodology adopted for the study is interpretative and analytical in nature. A systematic study of novels, especially the novels dealing

with the role of women and sex will be studied. Articles and reviews of the novels and novelist will be collected and MLA style sheet will be followed in writing the thesis.

Plan of the Thesis:

The proposed research will be confined to the following novels.
Sartha(1998), *Tantu*(1993), *Anchu*(1990), *Nele*(1983), *Dharmashree*(1961), *Doora Saridaru*(1962), *Parva(1979), Vamshavriksha,*(1965) , *Sakshi.*(1986)

The study will be divided in six chapters

1. Introduction
2. Nele and Sakshi
3. Sartha and Anchu
4. Doora Saridaru and Parva
5. Tamtu
6. Conclusion

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